



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS Announces a Closure of the Commercial Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Shark Fishery in the Atlantic Region

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) projects that the landings for the commercial non-sandbar large coastal shark (LCS) fishery in the Atlantic region exceed 80 percent of the available quota. As required by NMFS regulations, 50 CFR 6.35.28(b)(2), NMFS is closing the commercial non-sandbar LCS fishery in the Atlantic region as of 11:30 p.m. local time December 5, 2010. From the effective date and time of the closure until and if NMFS announces, via a notice in the Federal Register, that additional quota is available and the season is reopened, the fishery for that specific quota is closed, even across fishing years.

On January 5, 2010 (75 FR 250), NMFS announced that the non-sandbar LCS fishery for the Atlantic region for the 2010 fishing year would open on July 15 and the non-sandbar LCS quota would be 169.7 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) (374,121 lb dw). Dealer reports through October 31, 2010, indicate that 142 mt dw or 83.6 percent of the available quota for non-sandbar LCS Atlantic fishery has been landed. Dealer reports received to date indicate that 13.1 percent of the quota was landed from the opening of the fishery on July 15, 2010, through July 31, 2010; 31.9 percent of the quota was landed in August; 22.9 percent of the quota was landed in September; and 15.7 percent of the quota was landed in October. The fishery has reached 83.6 percent of the quota, which exceeds the 80 percent limit specified in the regulations. Accordingly, NMFS is closing the commercial non-sandbar large coastal shark fishery in the Atlantic region.

As such, as of December 5, 2010, all commercial non-sandbar LCS fisheries in all regions and fisheries will be closed. All of the pelagic shark fisheries remain open.

During the closure, fishing vessels issued an Atlantic Shark LAP pursuant to §635.4 may not possess or sell a non-sandbar LCS in the Atlantic region. A shark dealer, issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4, may not purchase or receive non-sandbar LCS from a vessel issued an Atlantic Shark LAP, except that a permitted shark dealer or processor may possess sharks that were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered, prior to the effective date of the closure and were held in storage. Additionally, a shark dealer issued a federal permit, pursuant to § 635.4, may in accordance with state regulations, purchase or receive a non-sandbar LCS if the shark was harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered from a vessel that fishes only in state waters and had not been issued an Atlantic Shark LAP, HMS Angling permit, or HMS Charter/Headboat permit pursuant to § 635.4.



This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. For further information on this landings update or the closure, contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Guý DuBeck at 301-713-2347. The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.

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Emily Menashes

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Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Date

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